

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please add the following sentence after paragraph [00033] on page 8 of the originally-filed specification:

FIG. 5 is a typical stress-strain curve for a superelastic material.

Please replace paragraph [00052] on page 13 of the originally-filed specification with the following paragraph:

[00052] FIG. 4 is a plan view of a rolled out flat sheet of the tubing 30 used to form the struts 28. A particular design pattern is cut into the wall of the tubing 30 in order to form each strut. In the case of the embodiment shown in FIG. 3, that pattern consists of a truncated diamond shape 65 which helps form the first section 60, the center section 62 and the triangular shaped section 64. By selectively removing portions of the tubing 30 through laser cutting, etching, stamping, or other suitable means, each particular strut can be fashioned into a precise shape, width, and length. This truncated diamond pattern ~~[[68]]~~65 repeats, as seen in FIG. 4, to provide uniform size to each of the struts 28 formed therein. Narrow struts such as that shown in FIGS. 1 and 2 can, of course, be formed as described above.

Please replace the original sheet 1/3 with the Replacement Sheet 1/3 as attached to this document.